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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

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PASS CONSULS

E. O. 11652 N/ A

TAGS: PFOR, XJ, US

SUBJECT: SECRETARY' S FOREIGN POLICY REPORT

1. TEXT OF SECTION ON CENTRAL AFRICA IN SECRETARY' S
1972 FOREIGN POLICY REPORT SCHEDULED FOR RELEASE APRIL 19
FOLLOWS IN FULL (UNNECESSARY WORDS OMITTED);

2. " CENTRAL AFRICA

EXPANDED ECONOMIC CONTACTS

THE FOCUS OF OUR EXCELLENT RELATIONS WITH COUNTRIES
OF CENTRAL AFRICA WAS ON EXPANDED ECONOMIC CONTACTS IN
FIELDS OF TRADE AND INVESTMENT.

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IN CAMEROON, AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR IS PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN FIELDS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS, CIVIL AVIATION, FISHERIES, AND IN THE INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ACTIVITY OF CONSULTATIVE ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS MANAGEMENT. THE CAMEROONIAN GOVT'S DECISION TO ESTABLISH A TRADE AND INVESTMENT OFFICE IN THE US INDICATES THE GROWING IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN PRIVATE SECTOR IN THAT COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PLANNING.

AMERICAN OIL COMPANIES ARE CONTINUING THEIR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION ACTIVITIES IN GABON, ZAIRE AND CHAD.

IN ZAIRE, RESIDENT AMERICAN BUSINESS COMMUNITY NOW NUMBERS OVER 65 FIRMS COMPARED TO LESS THAN 10 ONLY 2 YEARS AGO. IN OCTOBER EXIMBANK ISSUED A PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT TO ZAIRE GOVT FOR FINANCING SEVERAL INTER-RELATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. TOTAL VALUE OF IMPORTS INTO ZAIRE FROM ALL SOURCES ASSOCIATED WITH THESE PROJECTS, WHICH INCLUDE STAGE 2 OF THE INGA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT, THE INGA-SHABA HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSMISSION LINE, AND SEVERAL COPPER-MINING PROJECTS IN SHABA, IS ESTIMATED TO BE DOLS 800 MILLION. EXIMBANK IS PREPARED TO ASSIST IN FINANCING OF DOLS 400 MILLION ON BASIS OF A 45 PERCENT EXIMBANK CREDIT AND A 45 PERCENT EXIMBANK GUARANTEE. A NUMBER OF US CORPORATIONS HAVE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THESE PROJECTS. IN LATE NOVEMBER PRESIDENT MOBUTU DEDICATED THE INITIAL STAGE OF INGA DAM ON ZAIRE RIVER. WHEN THE FULL 3 STAGES OF THE DAM ARE COMPLETED, THE INGA POWER PROJECT WILL BE SECOND LARGEST HYDROELECTRIC COMPLEX IN AFRICA, WITH A MAXIMUM POTENTIAL OF 30,000 MEGAWATTS.

MINING OPPORTUNITIES ALSO ARE OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO AMERICAN COMPANIES IN CAR, GABON, AND CAMEROON. US COMMERCIAL BANKING ACTIVITY IN THE AREA IS EXPANDING, ESPECIALLY IN ZAIRE WHERE THE GOVT HAS MADE EXTENSIVE USE OF COMMERCIAL BANKING SOURCES TO FINANCE A VARIETY OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. THE US CONTINUED TO BE AN IMPORTANT CONSUMER OF COFFEE GROWN IN RWANDA AND BURUNDI

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AND COCOA FROM EQUATORIAL GUINEA.

THE ONE CENTRAL AFRICAN COUNTRY WITH WHICH WE DO NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CONGO. WE HAVE INFORMED THE CONGOLESE GOVT THAT WE ARE WILLING TO RESUME NORMAL DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITHOUT PRE-CONDITIONS. THE GOVERNMENTAL OPTION OF "SCIENTIFIC SOCIALISM" ADOPTED BY CONGOLESE LEADERSHIP NEED NOT BE AN IMPEDIMENT TO DEVELOPMENT OF FRUITFUL BILATERAL DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS BASED ON NON-INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS.

REGIONAL DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY

CENTRAL AFRICA IN 1972 WAS THE SCENE OF INTENSE DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY TO ENHANCE COOPERATION AND REMOVE OBSTACLES TO NORMAL RELATIONS BETWEEN GOVTS IN THE AREA. ZAIRE AND CONGO AGREED TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, TO STOP MUTUALLY HOSTILE RADIO PROPAGANDA, AND TO

NORMALIZE TRAVEL, COMMERCE, AND MONETARY EXCHANGES. UTILIZING GOOD OFFICES OF PRESIDENTS MOBUTU AND NGOUABI OF ZAIRE AND CONGO RESPECTIVELY, GOVTS OF GABON AND EQUATORIAL GUINEA AGREED TO SUBMIT THEIR DISAGREEMENT OVER DISPUTED OFFSHORE TERRITORY TO A SPECIAL OAU COMMISSION. IN THE INTERIM, THE GOVTS HAVE AGREED TO "NEUTRALIZE" THE DISPUTED AREA.

A STATE VISIT TO RWANDA IN NOVEMBER BY ZAIRE PRESIDENT MOBUTU RESTORED TO NORMAL WHAT HAD BEEN ONLY CORRECT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SINCE 1967. THE NORMALIZATION OPENED DOOR TO FUTURE COOPERATIVE VENTURES IN EXPLOITATION OF LAKE KIVU RESOURCES, TOURISM, AND OTHER ECONOMIC FIELDS.

A SUMMIT MEETING OF LAKE CHAD BASIN COMMISSION (CAMEROON, CHAD, NIGER, AND NIGERIA) AGREED TO EXPAND REGIONAL LINKS IN TRANSPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION, AND MARKETING, AND TO FINANCE JOINT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

THE US GOVT IS ENCOURAGED BY THESE DEVELOPMENTS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH DEMONSTRATE A SOPHISTICATED MATURITY IN SETTLEMENT OF REGIONAL DISPUTES AND A GENUINE DETERMINATION TO ESTABLISH THE BASIS FOR REGIONAL COOPERATION.

INSTABILITY IN BURUNDI

A POLITICAL UPHEAVAL IN BURUNDI FROM APRIL TO OCTOBER UNFORTUNATELY CONTRIBUTED TO A RESURGENCE OF THE CHRONIC INSTABILITY THAT HAS PLAGUED THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REGION FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS. A REPORT RELEASED BY THE UN IN JULY SAID " THE PROPORTIONS OF THE HUMAN TRAGEDY WHICH THE PEOPLE OF BURUNDI ARE EXPERIENCING ARE STAGGERING. THE BURUNDI GOVT ITSELF HAS REPORTED THAT 80,000 PERSONS HAD DIED SINCE APRIL 29 AND THAT 500,000 PERSONS ARE EXPERIENCING GREAT SUFFERING." THE TRAGEDY IN BURUNDI ALSO SENT THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES INTO NEIGHBORING RWANDA, ZAIRE AND TANZANIA, WHERE THE LOCAL GOVTS HAVE RESPONDED GENEROUSLY WITH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE AIDED BY UN AND VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. WE HAVE BEEN CONCERNED WITH THE DIMENSIONS OF THE TRAGEDY AS WELL AS THE QUESTIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS INVOLVED IN THE EVENTS SINCE APRIL 29. WE THEREFORE CONTINUE TO SUPPORT UN EFFORTS TO ASSURE THAT RELIEF ASSISTANCE FOR VICTIMS OF THE TRAGEDY IS DISTRIBUTED EQUITABLY TO ALL WHO NEED IT, BOTH INSIDE BURUNDI AND AMONG REFUGEES OUTSIDE.

AFRICAN GOVTS REGARDED THE TRIBAL CONFLICT WHICH SPARKED THE TRAGEDY AS AN INTERNAL MATTER BUT, PRIVATELY, SEVERAL AFRICAN LEADERS SOUGHT TO ENCOURAGE RECONCILIATION AMONG THE DEEPLY DIVIDED PEOPLE."

DECONTROL APRIL 20, 1973 ROGERS

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